Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces. The import option is exercised when it is necessary to procure the items within a definite timeframe on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and normally when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously within a specified timeframe.

Compensation for next of kin of soldiers killed

1415. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers killed during the last five years;

(b) whether Government has given full compensation to the next of kin of those killed during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A number of soldiers of the Indian army have made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives for the cause of the nation, in the last 5 years. The next of kin of all such battle casualties (fatal) are granted full entitled compensation except in cases where legal cases are filed or necessary formalities are incomplete.

Use of army to tackle naxalism

†1416. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army will be used to tackle the biggest internal problem 'Naxalism' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any high-powered co-ordination committee has been constituted between Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with naxalism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to commit Army in anti-naxalite operations.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Indigenous technology for Arjun tank and Tejas aircraft

†1417. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engine, gear and arm system used in Indian made Arjun Tank is imported;

(b) if so, the countries from where imported;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether engine and aviation system of Tejas aircraft is indigenous;

(d) if not, the name of the country from where it is imported;

(e) the bottlenecks in developing the indigenous technology for this;

(f) whether there is any proposal to develop indigenous technology for this; and

(g) the steps being taken for the development of indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) In Main Battle Tank, Arjun, the powerpack consisting of engine and transmission is imported from Germany, whereas the armament system, has been indigenously developed.

(c) and (d) The engine used in Tejas Aircraft is imported from United States of America (USA), whereas 70% of avionic systems integrated on Tejas is indigenous and 30% has been imported from Israel, France, Italy, United Kingdom (UK) and USA. Parallel efforts are being made for indigenizing remaining 30% of the avionic systems.

(e) Only few countries in the world are currently capable of design and development of engines for aircraft and tank. These are exceptionally complex technologies and involve many disciplines and vast industrial base and capabilities. Hence development of these technologies take longer time.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Indigenous Kaveri engine development programme is already under progress. To cater to the additional thrust requirement within the same engine envelope, co-development with an established and reputed international engine house is being contemplated.

A project has also been proposed to develop indigenous engine and transmission on joint venture basis partnering with potential Indian Industries for Arjun Tank. DRDO has already commenced pre-project activities associated with this new development.

Activities of defence beyond purview of RTI Act

†1418. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Ministry of Defence which are beyond the purview of the Right to Information Act currently;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this cover of secrecy and exemption from responsibility to answer, corruption, fear and uncertainty is pervaded in entire mechanism; and

(c) whether all activities except preparation of services, their movement and number of equipment and capacity would be brought under the purview of Right to Information to bring transparency?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.